
REPORT FOR: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of Meeting: 14 June 2017

Subject: Corporate Parenting Strategy

Key Decision: No

Responsible Officer: Chris Spencer,
Corporate Director, People Services

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder,
Children, Schools and Young People

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No

Wards affected: All Wards

Enclosures: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017 to 2019

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Recommendations: To note the strategy update and priorities

Reason: All councillors are Corporate Parents and need to be aware of how these responsibilities are being carried out.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

Looked After Children and Care Leavers are a vulnerable group. The Council has a responsibility to ensure those who have had a poor start to their lives and become Looked After are given high quality levels of care and support to ensure they are prepared for adulthood; and that good outcomes are achieved in their lives

The Strategy is attached and sets out the key priorities

Regular performance reports are submitted to the Corporate Parenting Panel alongside which the priorities outlined in the strategy can be measured

The strategy outlines how Children Looked After in Harrow are provided with stable and secure placements and given support to ensure they are healthy and receive good quality education

Ofsted looked at the strategy as part of its inspection in January 2017 and noted that the strategy is detailed and sets out clear priorities and areas for improvement

Options considered

None this is an information report

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

If Harrow does not fulfil its corporate parenting functions it would fail to meet the requirements of increased inspection and regulatory framework for delivering safe and secure services across our partnerships. There is also financial risk to the MTFS savings if placement sufficiency is not achieved as this could result in an increase in high cost placements.

Legal Implications

Once a child becomes looked after, the local authority has a number of duties towards him or her under the Children Act 1989 and associated legislation.

These include:

- (a) to safeguard and promote the child's welfare, including providing advice, assistance and befriending;
- (b) to provide services for the child in addition to accommodation;
- (c) to ascertain and give consideration to the wishes and feelings of the child and family members;
- (d) to provide a complaints procedure;
- (e) to keep a child's care plan under review.

The local authority also has duties to former looked after children.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Children Looked After in Harrow come from diverse backgrounds and have a range of needs which reflects that of the wider community. The Corporate Parenting strategy outlines how foster carers and placements are recruited to ensure these needs are met and how a range of services are available to meet their diverse needs. It also notes that the staff involved in working with Children Looked After reflect the local community

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Please identify how the report incorporates the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for local businesses
- Making a difference for families

This update supports Harrow's Ambition plan and priority to protect the most vulnerable and support families; as well as being more business-like in commissioning and procurement to ensure best value in Children's placements

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost Frost.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Chief Financial Officer
Date:15 th May 2017.....		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

EqIA carried out:

Not applicable

EqIA cleared by:

Update report

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Peter Tolley, Head of Service Corporate Parenting, Children and Young People Service Division, People Services Directorate
Peter.tolley@harrow.gov.uk 02087366943

Background Papers: None